



*Congressman*

**BOB MENENDEZ**

*Legislative Update*



**Spring 2003**

Dear Friend:

As your representative in Washington, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that Hoboken receives its fair share of federal funding. As a member of the House Leadership, I have worked closely with Mayor David Roberts and his Administration, Senator Bernard Kenny, Jr., and concerned citizens to obtain funding for a number of worthwhile projects that will benefit you, your family, and your community.

### ***Community Safety***

Since being elected to Congress, one of my top priorities has been to improve safety in our communities. Over the past six years, I have helped secure almost \$2.6 million from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the Hoboken Police Department. This money has been used to hire new police officers, provide officer training to improve interactions with communities, and obtain equipment and support systems. Of that total, over \$1.1 million has been awarded to Hoboken to hire full time police officers to work in local schools. The officers hired through this program are in our schools to protect our children and to serve as mentors and positive role models for our children.

In addition, I secured a \$500,000 appropriations earmark through the Department of Justice/COPS Law Enforcement Technology program for the City of Hoboken to replace an obsolete radio communication system with state of the art digital radio communication technology. This money will allow all emergency services in Hoboken to use one interoperable communication system. In times of emergency, it is vitally important that those first responders who risk their lives for our safety be able to communicate with each other without fear of interruption.

### ***Transportation***

As the Senior New Jersey Member of the Transportation Committee, it is my responsibility to work for transportation dollars so that New Jersey can meet its transportation infrastructure needs. Over the last two years, I have secured \$210.2 million in Transportation Appropriations earmarks for the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail (HBLR) project, which serves New Jersey's rapidly developing waterfront area. The system will serve the high-density commercial and residential centers in Hoboken and Jersey City and will increase mobility throughout the sixth most densely populated county in the nation. The HBLR will help alleviate traffic congestion on our local roadways by allowing commuters to use mass transit to access the ferry and PATH terminals.

While rail is the most important element in meeting the region's transportation needs, ferries are also very important. I fought hard to designate New Jersey, along with Alaska and Washington, as one of three states that would receive funding from the National Ferry Boat program. Now all along the New Jersey Waterfront we see the value of ferries. Most recently, I secured a \$19 million appropriation earmark for the expansion and restoration of the historic Hoboken Intermodal Ferry Terminal, which is vital to increasing commuter capacity between New York and New Jersey. With PATH trains traveling at capacity and New Jersey's congestion problems growing, these funds will do much to help address the critical need for additional transportation options beyond travel on the overcrowded bridges and tunnels between Manhattan and Hudson County. I remain committed to securing such funding, which makes it possible for people to have access to jobs, education facilities, and other community destinations, without having to own or drive a car.

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## ***Financial Services***

I have also been excited to watch the creation of jobs in the rapidly growing financial services sector along the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. As you may know, I helped lead the fight on several issues important to this sector including financial services modernization legislation, SEC fee reduction, and financial privacy in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. In the past Congress, the President signed into law an initiative I worked on for several years to reduce the fees investors and firms pay when they buy and sell stocks. I reached out across the aisle to join with Republicans in authoring and introducing that legislation, on which I was the lead Democrat, and worked with leaders in my own party to win their backing in the effort.

## ***Education***

Since 1999, I have helped secure almost \$5.6 million in Head Start funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the Hoboken Organization Against Poverty. This money has been utilized to fund Head Start programs to further bolster the school readiness of young children. As you may know, Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for preschool children from low-income families. Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational activities. They also receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing indoors and outdoors in a safe setting. Head Start programs provide the initial building blocks that lay the foundation for our children's future.

My work here in Congress is focused on improving the lives of all residents in the 13th Congressional District, especially during these challenging times. Whether we are concerned about our national or economic security, I am committed to working tirelessly with Mayor Roberts so that each and every one of you will be safe and secure.

Hopefully, you will find this update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we may be of assistance to you on these or any other issues in the future

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez  
Member of Congress

*Congress of the United States*  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Official Business



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*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

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